

# **United States Air Force** **ONLINE** **news**

Vol. 2, No. 14

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

April 12, 2000

## Inside

■ A hard lesson to learn



complacency 2

■ EAF Online

Current deployment info available 3

■ AF leader focuses on people 4

## RECRUITING CHALLENGES

### AF deploys additional manpower

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker  
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON – In an all out effort to impact fiscal 2000 accession goals, the Air Force is delaying recruiter reassignments through the remainder of this fiscal year and has already deployed 100 Air Force Recruiting Service staff members with recruiting experience to the field.

The Air Force is taking these immediate and significant steps in the battle to overcome its recruiting challenges, according to Air Force senior leaders.

Additionally, active-duty  
**continued on Page 3**



*The Air Force is aggressively engaged in a number of initiatives designed to meet its fiscal 2000 accession goals and future year recruiting objectives.*

### Permissive TDY rules expanded

#### ■ Change benefits recruiting efforts

WASHINGTON – Air Force recruiting officials are optimistic that a move to expand permissive temporary duty guidelines will give an added boost to recruiting efforts.

Pending changes to the Military Leave Program, Air Force Instruction 36-3003, permits the Air Force Recruiting Service commander to approve selected events for permissive TDY status. Activities will be scrutinized for potential positive impact on Air Force recruiting efforts under the “We Are All Recruiters” program.

Additionally, participation in the Recruiter Assistance Program will expand to allow all ac-

tive duty military up to 12 days non-chargeable leave to assist recruiters in the field. Previously, the RAP was open only to technical school graduates, who returned to their hometown to help their recruiters.

“They’re a big help,” said Staff Sgt. James Lavelle, of the airmen who’ve participated in the RAP. He is assigned to the 313<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Squadron based in Plattsburgh, N.Y., and believes the changes to the RAP are good ones.

Opening the RAP to all active duty members will benefit recruiters, Sergeant Lavelle said, by allowing those who’ve had a chance to thoroughly experience the Air Force to come back home and tell about it.

Chief Master Sgt. Dan Roby agrees. He’s the chief of enlisted accession policy at the air  
**continued on Page 4**

## NEWSBYTES

### 130 selected for OTS

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The selection rates for enlisted members trying to become officers remains high, according to Air Force Recruiting Service officials here.

The latest Officer Training School board – OTS Selection Board 0004 – selected 130 enlisted members to attend OTS for a 43 percent select rate. The percentage marks the fourth consecutive board the selection rate has been above 40 percent.

The board, which met Feb. 28 through March 3, considered 489 applications and selected 303 people for a 62 percent overall selection rate.

The list of selectees can be viewed at [www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/pa/news/aetens00-89.htm](http://www.aetc.randolph.af.mil/pa/news/aetens00-89.htm)

The OTS board meets every six weeks. For more information concerning OTS and the application process, active duty members should contact the local education services office; civilians should contact the nearest Air Force recruiter.

### Civilian insurance changes

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – Federal employees who made a transaction during the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance ‘99 Open Enrollment will see their transactions take effect the first pay period on or after April 23. The actual date depends on the employee’s pay and duty status the previous pay period – April 9-22.

Benefits counselors are available for assistance Mondays through Fridays, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST. Counselors can be reached by calling the automated system at 1-800-997-2378 (527-2378 in San Antonio) and pressing “4” for Federal Employees Group Life Insurance, and “0” to be transferred to a benefits counselor. Hearing-impaired employees may reach a counselor by dialing 1-800-382-0893 or 565-2276 (in San Antonio).



## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/> Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

**Due to the length of the commentary, Letters are only available on line this week. Letters this week are about:**

- The Air Force not being a 9-to-5 job
- The "slow, steady decline" of medical care and
- Comments regarding a recent DoD homosexual survey and the results detailing harassment



## A hard lesson to learn

By Maj. Dale Rosenberg  
Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

I was watching the history channel the other day and ran across a very interesting documentary entitled, "Ghost Plane of the Desert: Lady Be Good." It focused on the disappearance, and later discovery, of a B-24D Liberator lost during World War II.

The aircraft departed from a base in Soluch, Libya, in April 1943, as part of a 25-aircraft package intending to strike Naples, Italy. About three-quarters of the way to the target, the group aborted the mission due to poor weather. When the aircraft aborted, they broke formation and came back as single ships. All the aircraft returned, except the Lady Be Good.

The last known radio transmission from the Lady Be Good was a request to the home field for a radio course indication. After being several hours overdue, it was assumed the Lady Be Good was down, and search aircraft were dispatched to search for wreckage at sea. None was ever found, so it was assumed the Lady Be Good had crashed and sank with her crew.

In 1959, a British Petroleum oil survey crew was looking for oil in the African desert 440 miles from Soluch, Libya, where the Lady Be Good had been based. They discovered the wreckage of a B-24 which proved to be the Lady Be Good.

The Air Force dispatched investigators who made some startling discoveries.

First, none of the crew was in the Lady Be Good when it crashed, nor were their remains anywhere near the aircraft. Second, the navigator made no log entries after the mission was aborted. Third, the navigator's equipment and charts were stored in their cases. At this point, investigators concluded the navigator stopped doing his job shortly after they turned back for home.

Other bomber crews had reported higher than normal tail winds that night, but because the Lady Be Good's navigator wasn't doing his job, they flew right over their home field and kept on going. Lost and out of fuel, the crew bailed out. Several years later BP surveyors located five of the nine crewmembers' remains 80 miles from the original crash site.

Surveyors discovered a diary on one of the crew that cleared up many mysteries. It told how one crewmember was killed instantly when his parachute failed to open. Daily entries described the harsh African desert conditions and the fact they had only one-half



canteen of water for all of them, and no food.

Bottom line, the crew tried to walk out of the desert and covered 80 miles in eight days before they perished. It would be several years before two more of the crew were found about 25 miles from the others. The final crewman has never been found and is believed buried by years of blowing sand dunes.

So why do I tell this story and what lessons can we learn from it? Probably the biggest lesson is one that has literally thousands of examples in history: complacency has caused more accidents and fatalities than most diseases.

In the case of Lady Be Good, the crew got complacent about their jobs. Once they turned back they were so relieved there was not going to be any shooting that turning 180 degrees back to home base would be a cake walk. They let down their guard, and in the middle of the biggest shooting war in history, died not from bullets or anti-aircraft fire but rather from complacency.

For those of us in the aircraft maintenance business, there is no more insidious enemy than complacency. A crew chief looks over the same airplane day in and day out, sometimes several times a day. He or she follows the same checklist until they know it by heart.

How many of you check your car's engine oil at every gas fill up? You figure it was good before, so it's good now. And pretty soon you get to the point where you never check it; you just wait until the next change is due. You are complacent. If your car motor runs out of oil you will need a new engine, but it's not life or death.

However, if an F-16 aircraft engine runs out of oil, most likely the pilot is going to have a nylon letdown (ejection).

My point is you must balance the possible consequences of your actions or non-actions with the seriousness of the work to be done. Anytime something becomes routine, be aware. Complacency can sneak up and bite you.

Complacency can have catastrophic effects not just in the aircraft operations and maintenance world, but anywhere. The best way I have found to avoid complacency is to be aware. Pilots use a term called situational awareness, and that is what I mean by being aware.

Understand the seriousness of what you are doing and what can happen if it isn't done right, even if it seems routine. And if you're not sure about something, ask. The answers and experts are out there. (Major Rosenberg is the 57th Component Repair Squadron commander.)



# EAF Online

## Easy access to deployment info

### LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) —

To help ensure people deploying as part of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept are fully prepared for their arrival in theater, the Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center is unveiling the first version of an electronic one stop shop for AEF deployments April 15.

The Web site will be available via military computers at <http://aefcenter.acc.af.mil/aefonline>.

According to Lt. Col. Gordon Bennett, the site's project officer, EAF Online will feature training templates airmen can access to obtain information on actions they need to complete — specific to their Air Force Specialty Code — before deploying.

The April 15 version will feature training templates for communications, legal and maintenance AFSCs deploying for Operation Southern Watch. The completed version with training templates for all AFSCs deploying to support any steady state deployment will be avail-



*The Aerospace Expeditionary Force Center will unveil the first version of an electronic one-stop shop April 15.*

able by October, Colonel Bennett said. "The goal is to have EAF Online serve as the backbone for all AEF actions for people deploying to support Air Force worldwide operations," he said. "We want everyone identified for an AEF deployment to go to this site first to obtain the information on actions they need to complete so they are ready to hit the ground running when they arrive at their deployed location."

Those actions include required training, shots, and qualifications for each AFSC and location. Once logged onto EAF Online — accomplished by entering a career field, AEF number, deployment location and home base in specific fields — people can access the requirements and training needed for the deployment, such as weapons, chemical warfare and air base ground defense. The site will also feature force protection and geopolitical issues, lessons learned from previous rotations and links to related news articles.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

### Online system eases payroll transaction access

WASHINGTON — The first phase of a new system allowing Defense Department employees to update certain pay information is now online.

In early March, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service began phasing in the Employee/Member Self Service system. This service allows DOD customers to access the system to update certain pay information via the Internet or by phone using an Interactive Voice Response System, according to Gloria Cranford-Bates, E/MSS project officer.

This first phase of E/MSS is now available to DFAS customers who are paid through the Defense Civilian Pay System, the Defense Retiree and Annuity Pay System, and the Marine Corps Total Force System. Active military and reserve pay customers serviced by the Defense Joint Military Pay System will have E/MSS capabilities later this summer.

### LEGALLY SPEAKING

## U.S. criminal jurisdiction over U.S. civilians overseas

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii — United States federal jurisdiction may be expanded to civilians who accompany U.S. military forces overseas if one of two bills currently being debated by Congress is passed into law later this year.

Currently, civilians who accompany forces overseas generally do not fall under U.S. federal jurisdiction. When a civilian commits a felony on a U.S. installation overseas, many times host nations choose not to prosecute them, thus leaving the United States no real means in which to hold the civilian accountable for the crime.

One recent case reported in a Stars and Stripes article included a male civilian at Misawa Air Base, Japan, who raped a 12-year-old American girl. Japan, apparently feeling it was an American matter, didn't prosecute, according to the article. All military officials could do was return him to the United States.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## AF deploys more manpower

**continued from Page 1**

members with previous recruiting experience are being tasked for 120-day temporary duty assignments returning them to recruiting duty by April 25.

To ensure those tasked get as much advance notice as possible, the preliminary tasking message went to the field April 10 and the formal tasking will be released in the next few days.

The tasking message targets 237 people deemed eligible to return for duty, according to officials. All members identified will undergo two days of refresher training before arriving at field offices. Getting this recruiting experience back into the field will be a tremendous force multiplier to the already heavily tasked recruiting force, officials said.

Explaining the TDY tasking, Brig. Gen. Paul M. Hankins, Recruiting and Retention Task Force director, said, "(The Air Force) is taking the same approach as it does for contingency deployments because we believe this conveys the appropriate mindset — we are engaged in a battle to overcome our current recruiting challenges."

These temporary actions put the Air Force in a better position to meet its recruiting goals this fiscal year, according to Air Force officials. For FY01 and beyond, the Air Force is increasing its active-duty recruiter force to 1,450 by Sept. 30, with a target of 2,000 recruiters by June 2001.

## Good Housekeeping award

WASHINGTON — An Air Force KC-135 pilot was selected as one of 10 Good Housekeeping Award for Women in Government recipients for 2000.

Lieutenant Col. Kimberly D. Olson, a National War College student at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., and recent commander of the 96th Air Refueling Squadron, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash., is the first and only Department of Defense and Air Force recipient in the history of the award.

The award — created to overcome the negative perception many Americans have about government — honors the achievements of 10 women whose work, creativity and compassion make communities a better place to live and work. It also draws attention to the value of government careers for women.

See related story at [http://www.af.mil/news/Apr2000/n20000411\\_000558.html](http://www.af.mil/news/Apr2000/n20000411_000558.html)





## FOCUSING ON PEOPLE

# Vice CSAF stresses commitment

**AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy** – The Air Force vice chief of staff spent a few days here to see how airmen are adapting to an aerospace expeditionary force structure and also talked about the current challenges facing the service.

General Lester Lyles, who was recently selected for reassignment as commander of Air Force Materiel Command, visited Aviano April 2-4 and got a first-hand look at how people here complete their mission. The general said in the last 10 years the Air Force has decreased in size by roughly 40 percent, while operations tempo and deployments have increased nearly 400 percent.

"I think the accomplishments here at Aviano have literally been a model of what this Air Force needs for the future," he said. "The aerospace expeditionary force structure is sort of a model for how we're going to operate, but we really didn't have much prac-



Photo by Senior Airmen Tiffani R. Spann

*Members of the 510th Fighter Squadron, Aviano Air Base, Italy, prepare for a deployment to Kuwait in support of AEF 5.*

tice until after Operation Allied Force. OAF essentially showed us that it could be done.

"We saw in the lessons learned here at Aviano exactly what the challenges are. We also saw what the successes are," the general said.

He said although it's not perfect yet and there is still much to be done, the AEF schedule is starting to put some reliability into the lives of airmen. He said it's also beginning to have an impact on the service's ability to better manage ops tempo.

"We are an expeditionary Air Force," General Lyles said. "For the kind of missions that we know we're going to have, the kind of mission like you've executed and proved and implemented at Aviano, the AEF structure and EAF concept is the right thing for the United States Air Force."

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Women business owners compete for \$1 billion in AF contracts

**LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (ACCNS)** – The Air Force's effort to award \$1 billion in contracts to women-owned businesses this year came to Langley AFB April 6.

The base hosted a seminar in the nearby town of Hampton where local women business owners could learn how to effectively compete for Air Force contracts. The "focused outreach event" attracted about 50 women.

"We want to make you successful because that in turn will make us more successful," said featured speaker Carol DiBattiste, undersecretary of the Air Force. Ms. DiBattiste explained to the audience how the Air Force

needs to capture the "expertise, energy and creativity of women" to make the best use of its acquisition dollars.

To spur that effort throughout the Air Force, the \$1 billion goal was established. Part of the effort includes outreach events like this one, the eighth of its kind. Follow-up surveys from previous seminars indicate 46 percent of all attendees have bid on Air Force contracts and 35 percent have won them, Ms. DiBattiste said. That's resulted in more than \$23.5 million in Air Force contracts awarded to women-owned businesses.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*

## Permissive TDY rules expanded

**continued from Page 1**

staff. The expanded recruiter assistance program "will have a dual impact on recruiting," he said.

"First, it will expand the market our recruiters are able to reach with the Air Force message," Chief Roby said. "It also adds credibility to the recruiter's story by having seasoned airmen tell of their Air Force experiences."

Conversely, the chief said airmen will also see the Air Force in a new light.

"By working directly with their hometown recruiter, seasoned airmen will gain knowledge and experience in joining the recruiting effort," Chief Roby said. "This will certainly work in conjunction with the 'We Are All Recruiters' program."

Additionally, "allowing airmen to experience recruiting from the outside-in will increase interest in becoming a recruiter," he said. "As we look at increasing our field recruiter strength from about 1,209 to 2,000 recruiters, this will be a useful tool to help gain quality airmen to fill recruiting vacancies."

For Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Bill McNeill, spending two weeks on a PTDY as part of the RAP program was rewarding. The 21-year-old Massachusetts native said the biggest highlight was the chance to help "kids who were not sure about their future."

The computer maintenance journeyman joined the Air Force eight months ago and said his recruiter, Tech. Sgt. David Collins, told him about the recruiter assistance program.

"It wasn't bad at all," he said. "I was able to go back home and also to help my recruiter."

"I got a chance to talk to a couple of kids; one was interested in computers, and it was great to help him and answer his questions," Airman McNeill said.

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



## U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

### Publishers

Hon. F. Whitten Peters, *Secretary of the Air Force*

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, *Air Force Chief of Staff*

### Editor-in-Chief

Brig. Gen. Ronald T. Rand, *Director of Public Affairs*

### Executive Editor

Col. Chuck Merlo, *Chief, Air Force News and Information*

### Managing Editor

Senior Master Sgt. Linda Brandon

### Staff Writers

Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy, Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller  
and Staff Sgt. A.J. Bosker

### Technical Production

Capt. Laurel Scherer and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Toner